

EXHIBIT A

Border Power Plant Working Group
4452 Park Blvd., Suite 209
San Diego, CA 92116

Grupo de Trabajo de Termoeléctricas Fronterizas
Paseo Estrella del Mar 1025, No. 2A, Sección Coronado
Playas de Tijuana, México C.P. 22000

September 25, 2002

Roberta Mendonca, Esq.
Public Advisor
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: Palomar Energy Project, Docket No. 01-AFC-24, Committee Workshop on Alternative Cooling Options Prior to Completion of the FSA

Dear Public Advisor Mendonca:

Current California Energy Commission policy is to endorse the use of reclaimed water for power plant cooling whenever it is proposed without consideration for site-specific conditions. The site-specific conditions of the proposed Palomar Energy Project indicate that use of reclaimed water may not be the optimal cooling solution in this case, and may in fact create a significant and long-term negative impact on water availability in the local area. The Siting Committee reviewing the Palomar Energy Project Application for Certification (AFC) needs to provide policy guidance to staff charged with the responsibility of preparing an independent analysis of the AFC. An alternative cooling options workshop held in Sacramento would be an effective way to inform the Committee, provide the information needed to re-examine Commission policy, and establish the issues to be heard during future evidentiary hearings.

We, the undersigned, request that the Siting Committee conduct a Committee Workshop on the subject of alternative cooling options for the Palomar Energy Project prior to the completion of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

Sincerely,

Bill Powers, P.E., *Chair, Border Power Plant Working Group, San Diego*
Kimberly Collins, *Director, Border Power Plant Working Group, Calexico*
Fred Cagle, *Director, Border Power Plant Working Group, San Diego*
Carolyn Shaputnic and Gentry McCormick, *Residents, 855 Chardonney Way, Escondido*
Jan Cortez, *Vice-President, American Lung Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties*
Dan Perkins, *Energy Committee Chair, Sierra Club San Diego Chapter*
Laura Hunter, *Clean Bay Campaign Director, Environmental Health Coalition of San Diego*
Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion, Morro Bay
Communities for a Better Environment
Ocean Conservancy